

### **Benefits from Participating in the Kindergarten Entry Assessment Fall 2014 Field Test**

1. The teachers/schools/districts that participate in the field test will be able to generate aggregated and disaggregated reports about what their students know and are able to do in the domains assessed: social and emotional development, approaches toward learning, language and literacy, mathematics, and physical well-being and motor development. In turn, teachers can use the information to inform individual instruction and parents can provide more targeted learning opportunities beyond the school day. The reports are available the day after the test window is completed.
2. The teachers/schools/districts that participate can use Teaching Strategies GOLD for the entire school year free of charge. MDE will collect data from the first checkpoint for the KEA (the first 55 days of school), but districts, schools, or teachers can choose to use it the entire school year at the other checkpoints.
3. Each participating teacher will receive professional development that includes:
  - how to look closely at student skills and behaviors to get a picture of the whole child;
  - how to focus on collecting and documenting information that is most important in predicting future school success;
  - how to evaluate students skills and behaviors along a continuum of learning progressions for each item assessed;
  - how to use data to inform their instruction and determine intervention strategies that will increase their students' learning trajectories;
  - how to generate parent reports that include helpful activities for parents to use at home that are directly tied to the student's instructional needs; and
  - how to provide parents with a portal that allows them to access the assessment data and information through the Teaching Strategies GOLD website.
4. Educators are ensured that the assessment they are using is valid and reliable.
5. Participants are supported throughout the field test by Teaching Strategies GOLD representatives and MDE's KEA consultant, Jeff Beal. This support eases implementation and assures successful completion of the assessment.